



The residents of Ridgecrest and surrounding communities need a reliable and affordable water supply

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS PROTECT OUR VALLEY'S WATER?

Protect Our Valley's Water is a coalition founded by Searles Valley Minerals that is dedicated to keeping the Indian Wells Valley (IWW) community informed about the ongoing issues and developments related to the IWW Basin and its water supply. This coalition works to ensure that residents are aware of important decisions, policies, and actions affecting their water resources, advocating for fair and sustainable water management practices.

WHAT IS THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY?

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWWGA) was established under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 to manage the region's groundwater sustainably by 2040.

WHAT WAS THE INTENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)?

SGMA was designed to foster better local and regional management of California's groundwater basins, with the goal of achieving sustainability by 2040. Its success depends on fair and reasonable local implementation.

WHAT IS THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP?

The Technical Working Group (TWG) is a group of qualified groundwater professionals who have conducted studies and continue to analyze the groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Basin. This collaborative effort included contributions from Searles Valley Minerals. The TWG continues to conduct studies on key issues relevant to the Basin using best available science.

WHAT IS SEARLES' ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Searles is a cornerstone of the Trona and Ridgecrest communities, supporting the local economy with innovative technologies and stable, well-paying jobs since 1873. Through Searles Domestic Water Company, the company provides municipal and domestic water to Trona, a severely disadvantaged community, and is the sole source of its water supply. Searles' contributions to the greater communities of the area include:

- A \$675 million annual economic impact on Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties.
- Employment for 575 direct jobs and 614 indirect/induced jobs.
- \$2.7 million in annual expenditures on Kern County vendors.
- An average annual wage of \$90,909 for Searles employees.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To request to be added to our email list, email info@protectourvalleyswater.com.